

# Heather Rose Butler



**Awarded for service to tourism and the community**

**Born: 1947**

**Entered on roll: 2005**



Heather Butler was born in Melbourne and educated at the Maffra State School and Highbury High School. She entered Teachers College in 1966. She taught in several primary and high schools in Victoria before moving with her husband, son and two daughters to Tasmania in 1985. While she was teaching in Tasmania, she studied for an Arts Degree part time. In 1991, she began the successful tourism enterprise 'Queechy Cottages' at a time when the tourism potential of St Helens was not recognised.

Forming the St Helens Tourism Promotions Group, she worked to develop and promote tourism in the region. She and her husband built Tidal Water Restaurant, which provided additional employment and training in the region. Heather's vision has helped to develop the St Helens tourism industry and it is now regarded as one of Tasmania's premiere tour destinations.

Heather undertook a Social Work Degree with the University of Melbourne in 1987 and is now a qualified social worker. She has been using her skills to develop social work services in the Break O'Day municipality. She began counselling on a voluntary basis both in the community and at the St Helens High School. She, together with others, introduced a full-time social work facility in the St Helens Neighbourhood House Inc in 1992. In 2001, Heather instigated the youth network in St Helens and still fulfils an active mentoring role.

A Director of the TT Line Company, Heather is continuing to assist with the economic growth of Tasmania through shipping, transport and tourism. Her contribution is exemplified by her membership of Break O'Day Tourism Association Executive; East Coast Regional Tourism Association; Tourism Council of Tasmania; Independent Tourism Operators of Tasmania; St Helens and Districts Chamber of Commerce; St Helens Family History Research Group; University Rural District Health Forum; Eastern District Health Forum; St Helens Tourism Promotion Group Inc.; St Helens Neighbourhood House Inc.; Break O'Day Youth Network Inc.; Youth Access Group of St Helens; Australian Association of Social Workers; St Helens Uniting Church; and a Board Member of the North East Education Training Centre.